



PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 7552.0020

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: )  
)  
Silvio Cavalcanti et al. ) Group Art Unit: 3761  
)  
Application No.: 10/765,149 ) Examiner: Leslie R. Deak  
)  
Filed: January 28, 2004 )  
)  
For: AN APPARATUS AND METHOD ) Confirmation No.: 2154  
FOR MONITORING A VASCULAR )  
ACCESS OF A PATIENT )  
SUBJECTED TO AN )  
EXTRACORPOREAL BLOOD )  
TREATMENT )

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

In a restriction requirement dated February 9, 2006, the Examiner required  
restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 between:

Group I - Claims 1-50 and 95-98, characterized by the Examiner as  
being drawn to a device and method for monitoring a vascular  
access as a part of an extracorporeal blood circuit;

Group II - Claims 51-62, characterized by the Examiner as being  
drawn to a method for monitoring a vascular access without pumps  
or a semipermeable membrane and varying the flow rate of at least  
one fluid in the system;

Group III - Claims 63-64, characterized by the Examiner as being  
drawn to a method for monitoring a vascular access with a  
semipermeable membrane with no pump and varying the dialysate  
flow rate; and,


Group IV - Claims 65-94, characterized by the Examiner as being drawn to a method for monitoring a vascular access with a semipermeable membrane, no pump, and varying both blood flow rate and dialysate flow rate.

Applicants provisionally elect to prosecute Group I, claims 1-50 and 95-98, characterized by the Examiner as being drawn to a device and method for monitoring a vascular access as a part of an extracorporeal blood circuit.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: February 16, 2006

By:   
Aaron L. Parker  
Reg. No. 50,785